Making WCET®'s milestone memorable

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"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."
Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching

As the 45th anniversary of our journal continues to be celebrated, we would like to acknowledge and thank all of the authors who have submitted manuscripts to the journal over the last 45 years. In doing so, you have contributed to the rich history of the journal and the continuation the journal as a contemporary educational resource appreciated by our members as being one of their top five favourite functions of WCET®. We thank you for considering the journal and encourage you to submit your research proposals and findings and to share your clinical experiences and expertise so all can benefit.

As you may remember, we announced the WCET® Dr Elizabeth A Ayello Journal Article of the Year Award to recognise new authors in our last President/President Elect message. We have now determined the panel members who will select the three best articles of the previous year. We are delighted to announce and welcome: Yajuan (Julie) Weng, immediate past WCET® Education Committee Chair (China); Dr Juliano Teixeira Moraes (Brazil); Dr Sônia Regina Pérez Evangelista Dantas (Brazil); and Louise Forest-Lalande, Past WCET® President (Canada) from the WCET® Education Committee. Representing the WCET® Norma N Gill Foundation® (NNGF®) Committee are: Haiyan (Lisa) Li (China); Wei (Wiki) Dei (China); and Dr Elizabeth A Ayello, immediate Past WCET® President (USA). The group, once they have individually ranked eligible articles, will refer their rankings to Greg Paull, our Publisher. Greg, as coordinator, will collate the rankings and send the top three ranked articles to Dr Jenny Prentice (WCET® Journal Editor) who will determine the winner. Please see the News and Views section in this issue of the journal to learn more about how it will work. We take the opportunity in advance to express our gratitude to all these committee members for volunteering to assist with this important initiative.

Many thanks to our Publisher, Greg Paull, and our Editor, Dr Jenny Prentice, for their ongoing efforts and support.

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We hope you enjoyed our very first conjoint webinar with the International Skin Tear Advisory Panel (ISTAP®), in celebration of WCET® Norma N Gill Day®. It was a very special way to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Norma, and 73rd of Sally her daughter. We miss them both a lot and keep them in our hearts and souls.

We thank all the prestigious speakers and greatly appreciate them for volunteering to share their expertise and knowledge. We also thank the organising team from both ISTAP® and WCET® who worked hard to make this event possible. This webinar helped to highlight that skin and skin care are the common bonds of our tri-specialty, with skin being the organ that binds us together towards better care and better outcomes for individuals with stoma, wound and/or continence needs.

This webinar will remain free access on our websites (wcetn.org/page/2025WCETNormaNGillDayWebinar). And our next webinar on continence care is about to be disseminated, so stay tuned to learn more.

We feel very fortunate to have presented our progress on the WCET® International Ostomy Guideline (IOG) 3rd edition at the Asia Pacific Enterostomal Therapy Nurses Association (APETNA) Conference in Malaysia, in July. During this trip we took the opportunity to continue to work on this 3rd edition. A manuscript will be submitted for a future Journal issue about the impressive response rate we received from the survey regarding the clinical questions proposed to inform the guideline. So please continue to read updates in the Journal and BullETin to know more.

Many thanks to the WCET® Education and NNGF® Committee members, the WCET® International Delegates (IDs), the International Society University of Colorectal Surgery (ISUCRS), the International Ostomy Association/Asia, South Pacific Ostomy Association (IOA/ASPOA) and all patients who responded, for your valuable input. Be prepared to hear from the guideline development panel asking for further feedback. We hope we receive even more information from around the globe related to socio-cultural and religious/spiritual beliefs, as this will help us improve on the previous edition. As we are living in a world with many diverse cultural heritage backgrounds, it is crucial to take this into account when caring for individuals who do not necessarily share the same educational, societal and religious/spiritual background as ourselves. Taking care of diverse populations is very rewarding, making us grow as individuals

by helping us learn and understand, even if we are outside of our comfort zone, encouraging us to be open minded and heart-centred.

Planning for the WCET® and Nurses Specialised in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Canada® (NSWOCC®) joint congress is well under way, including the scientific programme. Registration will be open mid-September 2025 at www.wcet-nswocc2026.com.

We cannot thank everyone involved enough, from both organisations, for their commitment and collaboration: a true testimony of real team work.

WCET® Congress Travel Scholarships are now closed and the 19 applicants will receive a notification from the NNGF® Committee Chairperson, stating the amount allocated, which is based on the agreed budget. Like last year, a General Fund has also been established to help as many potential attendees as possible.

Feedback from the joint Scientific Committee regarding submitted abstracts for free papers will come soon. Keep checking your email for updates. We hope and cannot wait to see you all in Vancouver. Start making your travel plans including eTA or visa requests, if not already done. Thank you to all who have submitted their abstracts, this contributes to making it a diverse, rich, powerful and successful event. We cannot wait to learn from you.

Finally, we are very proud to welcome Dr Kimberly LeBlanc (from Canada) as the incoming WCET® President Elect (2026-2030). Kimberly will automatically take over the Presidency from Denise Hibbert from 2030–2034. It will be a privilege to introduce her in her new role when in Vancouver next April, in her own country. Please join us in congratulating Kimberly who until then will become a non-Executive Board member, with no EB voting rights, allowing her to commence her mentoring phase as soon as possible. Her career speaks for itself and, with her skills, we are assured the future of the WCET® is in good hands.

Over the last month we have worked behind the scenes on other important and/or sensitive topics, such as:

- Connecting with our Sustaining Journal Partners (SJPs).
- Keeping in touch with organisations with whom we have a Memorandum of Understating (MOU).
- Attempting to offer support to several members who have been quite sick over the past months and praying for their recovery.
- Mourning friends who have passed away.
- Being involved in Delphi surveys sent by other organisations on upcoming consensus documents, some we have shared with you, our members.
- Supporting organisations in their achievements, such as the recognition of stomatherapy as a specialty in Spain, and the Spanish translation of the Brazilian Consensus on the Care of People with Elimination Ostomies.
- Continuing to recognise and value Enterostomal Therapist Nursing Education Programmes (ETNEP) and Recognised Education Programmes (REP) worldwide. We thank their organisers for the hard work they have done to make these programs happen. We take the opportunity to once again thank the WCET® Education Committee for the time spent on this recognition process.

Please remember we have a dedicated Scholarship program if you need financial support to attend one of these (wcetn.org). Many thanks again to Dr Elizabeth A Ayello and her family for their very generous donation to establish this scholarship.

Be assured that the WCET® Executive Board and supporting members, in conjunction with our Management Company work hard to serve you and ensure our 2023–2027 Strategic Plan is implemented. Our upcoming face-to-face/hybrid annual EB meeting will be an opportunity to update some important documents such as the Constitution and Policy and Procedure Manual, as well as assessing our past actions to plan for the coming years.

To quote Vincent Van Gogh "Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together." Doing so, we keep following Norma's mission as faithfully as possible, facing each challenge with determination, faith and heart; in recognition of the responsibility that fall befalls us in serving you and WCET®, our unique global organisation for stoma, wound and continence care Thanks for your support and dedication.

Laurent and Denise